

REMARKS

Claims 1-39 were pending in the above-captioned application when the present Office Action was mailed (February 8, 2005), with claims 16, 19, 32, 33 and 35 withdrawn. Claims 1, 22, and 37 have been amended, and claim 52 has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-39 and 52 are currently pending.

In the non-final Office Action mailed February 8, 2005, claims 1, 3-8, 14, 21-24, 28, and 37-39 were rejected, with the remaining claims allowed or indicated to be allowable. More specifically, the status of this application in light of the February 8 Office Action is as follows:

(A) Claims 1, 3-8, 14, 21-24, 28, and 37-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,238,093 to Siegel et al. ("Siegel") or U.S. Patent No. 4,678,143 to Griffin ("Griffin"); and

(B) Claims 29-31 were indicated to be allowed, with claims 2, 9-13, 15, 17, 18, 20, 25-27, 34 and 36 indicated to be allowable if rewritten to be in independent form.

The undersigned attorney wishes to thank the Examiner for engaging in a telephone interview on May 2, 2005. During the telephone interview, the rejected claims and the applied references were discussed. The Examiner indicated that clarifying the rejected independent claims to more clearly indicate which of several possible definitions for the term "contact" are intended by the applicant would result in a withdrawal of the outstanding rejections. Independent claims 1, 22 and 37 have been so amended, solely for purposes of clarifying these claims.

A. **Response to the Section 102 Rejections**

In light of the foregoing agreement by the Examiner, the outstanding rejections of claims 1, 22 and 37, as amended, should be withdrawn. Claims 4-8, 14, 21, 23, 24, 28, 38, and 39 all depend from one of the foregoing independent claims. Accordingly, the Section 102 rejections of these claims should be withdrawn for the foregoing reasons and for the additional features of these dependent claims.

Claims 16, 19, 32, 33 and 35 were previously withdrawn. These claims depend from claims that are generic, and accordingly, these withdrawn claims should be considered and allowed.

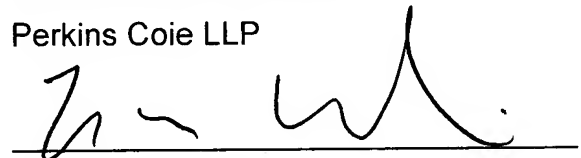
B. Response to the Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

All the claims indicated to be allowable now depend from an allowable independent claim. Claim 2, which was indicated to be allowable if rewritten to be in independent form, has been so rewritten as claim 52. Accordingly, claim 52 should be allowed.

C. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the claims pending in the application comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and patentably define over the applied art. A Notice of Allowance is, therefore, respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-3257.

Respectfully submitted,
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